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1879

# Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Trustees of Greely Institute, and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Cumberland, for the Fiscal Year Ending February 22, 1879

Cumberland (Me.).

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,  
TRUSTEES OF GREELY INSTITUTE:  
AND  
SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,  
OF THE  
TOWN of CUMBERLAND,  
For the Fiscal Year ending Feb. 22, 1879.



PORTLAND, ME. :  
WILLIAM M. MARKS, PRINTER.  
1879.

Total Valuation, \$543,970.  
Total No. of Polls, 412.  
Poll Tax, \$3.00.  
Rate of Taxation, 13 mills on a dollar.

Paid Sarah Hamilton, board of Jane Webber,	\$38	00
“ Mahala Smith, board of Mary Barnes and child,	10	00
“ Asa Titcomb, board of Olive Titcomb,	14	00
“ Rufus S. Hamilton, board of Mary Barnes,	5	00
“ Sarah Hamilton, board of Jane Webber,	12	00
“ Treasurer City of Portland, supplies for W. H. Miller,	25	00
“ B. J. Thompson, board of Betsey Hamilton,	26	00
“ “ “ “	29	00
“ Sarah Hamilton, board of Jane Webber,	26	00
Charles Bibber, board of Mary Barnes,	5	25
“ C. B. Lakin, board, etc., of insane persons,	110	39
“ “ “ “	133	08
“ Woodbury Titcomb, board of Olive Titcomb,	31	25
“ E. B. Shaw, board of Stubbs and Abbott boy,	58	50
“ Ezra Titcomb, board of Olive Titcomb,	26	00
“ Sarah Hnmilton, “ Jane Webber,	26	00
“ B. J. Thompson, “ Betsey Hamilton,	24	00
“ Hamilton & Co., for goods delivered to Jane Webber,	6	54
“ J. T. Lewis & Co., clothing for L. S. Treen,	7	75
“ Wyer Greene & Co., shoes “	1	25
“ E. B. Shaw, board of R. Stubbs and Abbott boy,	64	60
“ Maine General Hospital, board of L. S. Treen,	39	00
“ P. A. Merrill, transporting remains of said Treen from Portland to Cumberland.	3	00

Paid W. Titecomb, board of Olive Titecomb,	43 25
“ C. B. Lakin, board of insane persons,	65 57
“ “ “ “	94 62
“ E. B. Shaw, board, clothing, etc., of Fred. Abbott,	39 50
“ “ “ “ Rufus Stubbs,	39 00
“ C. B. Lakin, board, etc., of insane person,	90 63
“ E. B. Shaw, board, clothing, etc., of R. Stubbs,	92 10
“ C. J. Keighton, food and lodging for two tramps,	2 00
“ J. M. Drinkwater, providing for 19 tramps,	9 50
“ B. J. Thompson, board of Betsey Hamilton,	23 00
“ Sarah Hamilton, board of Jane Webber,	48 00
“ Wm. T. Littlefield, getting coffin and attending funeral of Leander Packard,	2 50
“ Franklin Hamilton, digging grave, etc., for Leander Packard,	4 00
“ Wm. S. Daley, visit to Leander Packard,	6 00
“ S. M. Brackett, conveying L. S. Treen to Portland,	4 50
	<hr/>
Sum raised by Town,	\$1,285 68
	<hr/>
Balance against town,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$285 68

## INTEREST ON NOTES.

Paid Treasurer of Portland Savings Bank, int. on \$3,000 note,	\$90 00
“ Trustees of Greely Institute, int. on notes of \$12,000, \$6,000, \$2,000, \$500 and \$300,	624 00
“ Treas. Portland Savings Bank, int. on \$3,000 note,	90 00
“ Wm. M. Merrill, int. on notes, \$1,000 and \$250,	75 00
“ Trustees Cumberland School Fund,	52 62
“ Trustees Greely Institute,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,431 62
Amount raised by town,	1,600 00
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Balance in favor of town,	168 38

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid H. R. Mountfort, bridge plank, stringers and labor,	\$30 80
“ Nathaniel Merrill, for stone,	2 90
“ Hulit and Eaton, for building culvert,	122 00
	<hr/>
	\$155 70
Amount raised by town,	200 00
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of town,	\$44 30

# CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Paid F. W. Blanchard, services as Auditor,	\$2 50
“ Hollis St. Clair, services on acc'ts,	1 00
“ A. S. Sweetsir, services as clerk at March meeting,	2 00
“ A. R. Littlefield, services as selectman, 1877,	26 32
“ Joab Black, superintending burying grounds, etc.,	4 25
“ C. P. Graffam, labor on highway, 1876,	10 85
“ Trustees of Greeley Institute, money rec'd from State in aid of Free High Schools,	500 00
“ C. M. Farwell, collector of taxes, premium in full,	30 27
“ Sumner Sturdivant, injury to horse,	50 00
“ Dresser, McLellan & Co., stationery,	17 79
“ P. A. Merrill, use of stable,	5 00
“ A. H. Buxton, service as health committee,	2 00
“ H. R. Mountfort, building burying ground fence,	87 00
“ Stront & Gage, legal advice for 1875 and '76,	25 00
“ State Publishing Association, printing town reports,	15 00
“ Eastern Argus, advertising non-resident taxes,	24 00
“ L. P. Sturdivant, services as town Treasurer,	20 25
“ “ “ Moderator,	2 00
“ “ “ <sup>LC</sup> Supervisor of Schools,	65 34
“ Alvin Leighton, taxes bid in by town,	158 55
“ A. R. Littlefield, services as selectmen, assessor and overseer of poor,	25 85
“ Chas. C. Hall, running line between Gray and Cumb'd,	1 50
“ Joseph Sawyer, attending funerals in town,	22 00
“ A. P. Lufkin, running line and setting up monuments between Cumberland and North Parmouth,	6 13
“ N. M. Shaw, services as selectmen, assessor and overseer of the poor,	67 34
“ D. R. Allen, services, selectmen, assessor and over- seer of the poor,	80 31
“ L. P. Sturdivaant, blank deeds,	38
“ Levi Lufkin, services of constable,	14 25
	<hr/>
	\$1,266 88
Amount raised by town,	\$1,000 00
Amount received from State and appropri- ated by town to Greeley Institute,	530 00
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	1,500 00
Balance in favor of town,	\$233 12

## TAXES ABATED, 1878.

Abated on lists of Alvin Leighton as per vote of town,				for the years 1875-6,	\$54 25
"	"	"	"	" 1876, by Select'n,	23 54
"	"	C. E. Herrick, for 1877,		"	126 88
"	"	"	"	" 1878,	22 26
					<hr/>
					\$226 93
Amount assessed for Poor,		\$1,000 00	Exp'd,	\$1,285 68	
" " " notes and int't,		1,600 00	"	1,431 62	
" " " roads, bridges,		200 00	"	155 70	
" " " contingent,		1,000 00	"	1,285 68	
" " " Collect's prem.,		125 53			
" " " overlay,		208 62			
Highway deficiencies of 1877,		61 40			
		<hr/>			
		\$4,195 55	Exp'd,	84,155 68	
Amount received from State,		500 00	Abat'ts,	226 93	
		<hr/>			
		\$4,695 55		\$4,385 61	
		4,385 61			
		<hr/>			
Balance in favor of town,		\$309 94			

## TOWN LIABILITIES.

Notes due individuals,	\$ 1,250 00
" " Greeley Institute,	20,800 00
" " Cumberland School fund,	877 00
" " Portland Savings Bank,	3,000 00
Balance due School Districts,	1,173 00
Outstanding bills, including Collector's premium due,	
estimated,	265 60
Town orders outstanding,	512 00
Interest due Greeley Institute,	124 00
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Liabilities,	\$28,001 60

## AVAILABILITIES.

Balance due from Treasurer, as per his report,	\$5,611 48
Amount due from Treasurer for disbursements for	
which he shows no vouchers,	150 00
Due from individual tax bid in by town,	303 77
" State Mill Tax,	611 06
" " School Fund,	325 20
" " John Jones' bank book in Treasurer's hands	135 34
Note and interest secured by mortgage deed,	588 23
	<hr/>
Availabilities,	\$7,725 08

Balance against town, \$20,276 52

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. ALLEN, } *Selectmen*  
N. M. SHAW, } *of*  
A. R. LITTLEFIELD, } *Cumberland.*

I hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing accounts and found them correctly cast and properly vouched.

L. H. MERRILL, *Auditor.*

## Treasurer's Report.

Balance in Treasury, March, 1878,	\$5,159 34
Assessor's commitment fee for 1878,	5,496 35
Received as interest on non-resident taxes,	17 74
“ from I. & L. Mansfield for Weir license,	5 00
“ for tax deeds redeemed,	26 00
“ for State for schools,	936 26
“ for State in aid of High schools,	500 00
“ for Cumberland school fund,	102 62
“ for advertising non-resident tax,	1 60
	<hr/>
	\$12,244 91
Paid out, town orders,	6,633 43
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Balance due town,	\$5,611 48
Due from C. E. Herrick, collector,	4,283 94
Due from A. Leighton, collector, 1876,	623 15
	<hr/>
Total due from collectors,	\$4,907 09
Due from non-residents,	95 52
Gash in treasury,	608 87,
	<hr/>
	\$5,611 48

L. P. STURDIVANT, Treasurer.

I hereby certify that I have examined the Treasurer's account and find it correctly cast, and I find it properly vouched, with the exception of one disbursement.

L. H. MERRILL, Auditor.

## Report of the Trustees of Greely Institute.

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The spring term of school commenced March 4th ; number of pupils, eighty-five ; J. M. Hawkes, Principal ; Miss S. M. Merrill, 1st Assistant ; Miss J. E. Wilder, 2d Assistant, and continued ten weeks.

The fall term commenced Aug. 26, C. T. Hawes, Principal ; Miss L. H. Coburn, 1st assistant, and continued eleven weeks ; number of pupils, forty-eight.

The winter term commenced Dec. 2d, with the same principal as the previous term, and Miss Clara A. Wilson, 1st Assistant and Mr. J. E. Warren, 2d Assistant ; number of pupils fifty-six, continuing 11 weeks.

Spring term will commence Monday, March 3d.

### PERMANENT FUND.

For Town of Cumberland note,	\$12,000 00
“ “ “	6,000 00
“ “ “	2,000 00
<hr/>	
Total,	\$20,000 00

### PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS FUND.

For amount of Town of Cumberland Note,	\$300 00
“ cash on hand,	6 92
“ one half year interest on said note,	9 00
“ “ “ “	9 00
<hr/>	
	\$324 92
Paid J. M. Hawkes for supplies as per bill,	\$13 41
Cash on hand to balance,	11 51
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	\$24 92
Town of Cumberland note,	\$300 00



# LIBRARY FUND.

For amount in Portland Savings Bank,	\$504 42
May and November dividends,	22 87
	<hr/>
	\$527 29
Expended for library books and re-binding old,	\$23 85
Life, by T. W. Knox,	4 25
	<hr/>
Amount drawn from bank,	\$28 10
	<hr/>
Balance in bank, Feb. 22, 1879,	\$499 19

# ACCUMULATED FUND.

For town of Cumberland note,	\$500 00
amount due on tuition book previous to spring	
term, 1879,	183 00
Cash balance,	131 70
	<hr/>
Total accumulated,	\$814 70

# DR.

## GENERAL INCOME FROM PERMANENT FUND AND OTHER SOURCES, IN ACCT WITH TRUSTEES OF GREELY INSTITUTE.

Paid cash by deposit in Portland savings bank,	\$400 00
“ Nutter Bros. & Co., furnace grate,	4 00
“ State Publishing association, 300 reports,	5 00
“ Wm. D. Little & Co., insurance on Institute	
building for three years, from May 1, 1878,	
to May 1, 1881,	90 00
Paid W. T. Kilborn & Co., shades and fixtures,	6 00
“ J. M. Hawkes, salary, spring term,	333 33
“ J. M. Hawkes, supplies as per bill,	37 26
“ Miss Julia Wilder, 2d assistant, spring term,	25 00
“ Miss M. S. Merrill, 1st assistant, “	90 00
“ R. H. Blanchard, care of seminary buildings,	20 00
“ C. K. Hawes' note and interest for piano, part	
pay,	101 07
Paid S. True, stamps for catalogues delivered to pupils,	1 24
“ F. S. Sanford, labor on furnace,	75
“ Nntter Bros. & Co., 10 lbs. galvanized funnel,	2 50
“ G. B. Bagley, printing catalogues,	21 50
“ R. H. Blanchnrd, care of seminary buildings	
fall term, cleaning seminary, setting glass,	
&c., as per bill,	29 15

Paid C. T. Hawes, services, fall term,	270 00
“ L. H. Coburn, 1st assistant, fall term,	108 00
“ Loring, Short & Harmon, text books,	12 37
“ Transcript office, advertising,	6 30
“ J. P. Wheelwright, tuning piano,	3 50
“ Knight & Howarth, stove & funnel,	10 85
“ J. M. Haskell, taking down the tops of four chimneys on seminary and rebuilding as per bill,	64 00
Paid T. C. Cooper & Co., repairing slate roof on seminary, as per bill,	9 11
Paid D. M. Lawrence, 11,825 lbs. coal,	31 04
“ L. & L. F. Walker, 8,974 lbs. coal,	23 11
“ Blanchard Bros., hauling 20,799 lbs. coal,	15 60
“ R. H. Blanchard, furnishing and setting glass,	3 50
“ C. T. Hawes, teaching winter term,	240 00
“ Miss C. A. Wilson, 1st assistant,	99 00
“ D. R. Allen, labor and cash paid as per bill,	15 94
“ “ “ services as trustee,	20 50
“ N. M. Shaw, “ “	3 00
“ R. H. Blanchard, care seminary, winter term,	15 00
“ Emery, Waterhouse & Co., as per bill of 1876,	22 74
	<hr/>
	\$2,140 86
Cash balance in Portland Savings bank,	131 70
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By cash from Wm. P. York, town treasurer, State aid,	\$500 00
error in last account,	56
tuition spring term,	93 00
Portland savings bank,	400 00
interest on \$12,000.00; \$6,000.00; \$2,000.00 and \$500.00 notes,	615 00
By Portland savings bank,	110 00
Tuition, Fall Term,	29 00
one second-hand oil stove,	6 00
interest on \$12,000.00; \$2,000.00 and \$500.00	435 00
tuition winter term,	28 00
interest in part on \$6,000.00 note,	56 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,272 56
Due from town, interest in part on \$6,000.00 note, \$124.00.	

Your trustees have purchased a nice Chickering piano for the benefit of the Institute, for which the trustees gave their notes for \$300.00, payable to Mr. C. K. Hawes (of Portland), as follows: first note, Sept. 1, 1878, and was paid at that time; the second note will become due Sept. 1, 1879; the third and last will fall due Sept. 1, 1880.

The tops of the chimneys in the Institute, upon examination were found to be unsafe, in consequence of being built with poor mortar, the lime having worked out of the seams so much that they leaked very badly through the joints, in blowing rain-storms, and we thought it would be expedient to have them taken down some two feet below the roof and rebuilt, which we did at a cost of \$64.60.

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. ALLEN,  
N. M. SHAW,  
A. R. LITTLEFIELD, } *Trustees of*  
*Greely Institute.*

I hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing accounts, and found them correctly cast, and properly vouched.

L. H. MERRILL, Auditor.

## School Report.

### *Fellow Citizens :*

As money seems to be absolutely necessary to the existence of our town schools, it will be proper in making our report to ascertain first, our resources for schools, which are as follows :

### RESOURCES.

Amount raised by town,	\$1,300 80
“ of Town Fund,	102 62
“ received from State as State Mill Tax,	611 06
“ “ “ “ “ school Fund,	325 20

Total for Schools,	\$2,339 68
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This has been divided as follows :

No. Dist.	No. of Schol.	15 Per. Ct.	Total.	No. Dist.	No. of Schol.	15 Per. Ct.	Total.
1	33	\$39 00	\$151 20	8	98	\$20 00	\$353 20
2	55	33 00	220 00	9	125	3 00	428 00
3	80		272 00	10	4	25 00	38 60
4	43	52 16	198 36	11	7	37 50	61 36
5	47	45 00	204 80	12	7	23 80	23 80
6	5	17 00	47 00	13	30	37 56	139 56
7	52	25 00	201 80				

There were within the limits of the town, on the 1st day of April, 1878, the number of 586 children between the ages of four and twenty-one years. Of these, four were upon Hope Island; and it having been ascertained by our assessors that that Island was District No. 10, money was apportioned to them, and there has been a school in that District during the past winter.

## SCHOOLS.

The condition and progress of the schools as nearly as I could ascertain has been as follows :

**DISTRICT No. 1—SUMMER TERM.** Joseph Stardivant, Agent ; Emily A. Norton, Teacher. This was a small school, and consisted principally of small scholars. At my first visit I found the teacher well interested and trying to make this a successful term.

Unfortunately, at my last visit some of the older pupils were absent; but those who were present showed by their correct answers to questions asked them, that their time had been well spent. Good improvement was noticed especially in the Mental Arithmetic and spelling classes. The order also was good. I believe this to have been a profitable term of school.

**WINTER TERM—Charles F. Andrews, Teacher.** Mr. Andrews passed a fair examination, and at a visit made at the commencement of the term the school appeared to be in a fair condition. The scholars were interested, the order was good, and the teacher appeared to have good methods of instruction. The agent moved out of the State before the school commenced, and, as there was no one to perform his duties, the Supervisor was not notified of the close of the school and did not visit it but once, and consequently can give no farther report of it.

**DISTRICT No. 2—SPRING AND FALL TERMS.** E. S. W. Jones, Agent ; Mary L. Hitchcock, Teacher. This was Miss Hitchcock's first attempt at teaching, and she succeeded as well as beginners usually do. She is a good scholar, appears to have a liking for the business, and I think with more experience she will make a fine teacher. In the Spring term good improvement was made in the smaller reading classes, also in the Geography class. In the Arithmetic classes, although not a large amount had been done, yet that had been well done. In the fall term, the teacher seemed more at home in her work, and fair improvement was made in most of the branches taught.

**WINTER TERM—Horace E. Sawyer, Teacher.** At my first visit, I found this school in a good condition. I was forced to make my second visit about three weeks before the close, and the school was examined without any preparation. Fair improvement was noticed in all the classes examined. I feel satisfied that Mr. Sawyer has been a faithful and patient worker, and a successful school is the result.

DISTRICT No. 3—Solomon L. Blanchard, Agent ; Olive H. Merrill, Teacher. This District employ the same teacher for the school year of three terms. At my first visit to the Spring term, the order was good. The recitations though not animated were well conducted. At the examination I found the greatest lack was that of carefulness in reading. The two larger classes in Arithmetic appeared to have made good improvement. A class of beginners seemed to have gained a fair knowledge of the ground rules. The Mental Arithmetic class had not done so well. The class in Primary Geography appeared to have made first rate progress. Fair progress was made in the other Geography classes. At the visit made to the fall term the school appeared better. The reading was very good, and the other recitations satisfactory. I think that more attention should be paid to writing in this school than there has been in the past. During the Spring term only three scholars practiced writing. I did not think it necessary to visit this school twice each term, and intended to visit the winter term at the close. But the teacher's letter notifying me of the close of the school failed to reach me until it was too late, and so I can make no report of that term.

DISTRICT No. 4—SUMMER TERM. Joseph W. Shaw, Agent ; Jessie A. Legrow, Teacher. Miss Legrow is a comparatively inexperienced teacher. At a visit made at the beginning of the school, it appeared to be in a fair condition. The recitations in Arithmetic were creditable and the reading was good. The order was good (as it always is in this school). Here again I was not notified of the close of the school and did not visit it a second time.

WINTER TERM—Helen M. Lawrence, Teacher. This is the district's favorite teacher, and certainly the school always makes good improvement under her care. At my first visit I found every thing moving along smoothly and satisfactorily. At the closing examination, evidences of faithful work on the part of both teacher and pupils were seen. Good improvement had been made by all the classes examined. The writing books also showed good care and good improvement.

DISTRICT No. 5—SUMMER TERM. Edward Hall, Agent ; Helen M. Lawrence, Teacher. The order in this school was good. Fair improvement was made in reading, but a little more animation would have made it still better. Good improvement was made in all the Arithmetic classes, also in Penmanship. This was one of the most successful of our summer schools.

FALL TERM—Fannie Skillin, Teacher. The improvement in some of the Arithmetic classes was not satisfactory, in others considerable progress was made. Good improvement was made by the class in Analysis, and the class in Elementary Grammar gained a fair knowledge of the parts of speech. Had there not been a

lack of sympathy between teacher and pupils, I think more improvement would have been made.

**WINTER TERM**—Commenced by Miss Emma C. Pittee, and continued several weeks. Dissatisfaction arising in the district the school was closed by mutual consent. I was well satisfied with this teacher's class drill, and with the improvement made. The trouble seemed to arise from some injudicious remarks used by the teacher to some of her pupils. After a short vacation the school was re-commenced under the care of Miss Susan C. Prank, a teacher of large experience, and when visited a short time ago appeared to be in an excellent condition.

**DISTRICT No. 6**—**W. Blanchard, Agent.** This District is under the supervision of Yarmouth.

**DISTRICT No. 7**—**SPRING AND FALL TERMS.** Nathaniel Merrill, Agent; Mary B. Stevens, Teacher. Miss Stevens is very ambitious to succeed as a teacher, and seizes upon every new method of instruction and puts it into practical use. Good order was maintained throughout both terms. Good improvement was noticed in all the branches studied.

**DISTRICT No. 8**—**SPRING TERM.** Wm. Seabury, Agent; Ellen S. Bracliett, Teacher. This school consisted principally of small scholars, there being twenty in the Primer class. The Reading classes showed that pains had been taken with them, and had made fair improvement. The class in Mental Arithmetic had spent the term upon the multiplication and division tables and had learned them very well. Some of the older scholars had reviewed percentage, proportion and evolution, and understood them very well. The improvement in other branches was fair and the order good.

**FALL TERM**—Calista A. Preble, Teacher. The District was very fortunate in securing the services of so able and experienced a teacher as this lady. She has taught this school four terms and has always given perfect satisfaction. Good improvement was made in all branches. The oral lessons in History were excellent and very interesting. It is hoped that the services of this lady will be secured for the coming summer.

**WINTER TERM**—**L. P. Sturdivant, Teacher.** I have good reasons for believing that this was a successful term of school.

**DISTRICT No. 9**—**SUMMER TERM.** James M. Hamilton, Agent; Mrs. R. M. Walker, Teacher. At my examination of this school the younger Reading classes read very correctly. The older classes read too fast and too carelessly. The class in Primary Geography, organized at about the middle of the term, seemed to have gained quite a good knowledge of physical and mathematical geography. The class in the larger geography gained a

good knowledge of the geography of the United States. The class beginning in Grammar made fair improvement. The class in Analysis and Parsing appeared to be quite proficient in those branches. The order was not very good.

**FALL TERM**—Theresa M. Merrill, Teacher. This was one of the most successful terms of school in town for the year. The teacher was very popular with both parents and pupils. Good improvement was made in all branches, especially in reading, which had before been sadly neglected. Nothing fancy was attempted, but good, plain, thorough work was the aim of this teacher in every thing. Singing by the school was an interesting feature of the exercises. It is to be hoped that the services of this teacher will be retained in the town during the coming year.

**WINTER TERM**—Commenced by Mr. A. R. Littlefield, a teacher who has had excellent success in this town and Harpswell. Unfortunately Mr. L. sprained his ankle, and was forced to leave his school, which was completed by Mr. Clinton M. Hamilton. Mr. H. was placed in a hard position. Without experience as a teacher he was placed in charge of the largest school in town, and in a district where he had always attended school. His school appeared even better than could be expected under the circumstances. He maintained good order throughout the term, and the scholars made fair improvement.

**DISTRICT No. 10—HOPE ISLAND—WINTER TERM.** Henry Horr, Agent, Dora S. Rose, Teacher. This school was held in a private house and consisted of five small scholars. The teacher had never taught before. I visited the school once and it then appeared to be in a fair condition. Two of the children were learning the multiplication table, and one was at work on the ground rules of arithmetic. I have no doubt that the money was well expended.

**DISTRICT No. 11—WINTER TERM.** Moses G. Pettengill, Agent, Lizzie Hamilton, Teacher. This School is also held in a private house, and also had an inexperienced teacher. I visited it once. It then appeared to be doing well and the scholars seemed to be interested. I understand that the school has since been broken up by sickness.

**DISTRICT No. 12—Ephraim Morrison, Agent.** The scholars in this district attended school in Falmouth.

**DISTRICT No. 13—SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS.** Wm. S. Blanchard, Agent, Nary E. Osgood, Teacher. This school is quite small in number. When I examined it near the close of the summer term, I found that the first class in Arithmetic had taken up Percentage, Interest and Discount, and had gained a good knowledge of what they had been over. Another class

which had taken up simple numbers had gained a good working 'knowledge of the ground rules. A class in Mental Arithmetic had learned the multiplication table. The winter term exhibited similar improvement. I believe that this was a successful school.

I have endeavored in my humble way to lay before you a plain statement of the condition of your schools during the past year. I do not claim for them that they have been models of perfection and success. I do not claim even, that there have been none below the average of schools throughout the country. I have simply taken as hopeful a view of the matter as the circumstances would permit. I might have criticised some of our schools more strongly than I have, but I had no desire to discourage inexperienced teachers by placing them in the position of robbers of our children. Such action would be unjust to them, and would be of no benefit to the schools.

Under the district system, no office in town is of more importance than that of school agent.

Let me urge upon the people the necessity of electing to that office men who are fully awake to the importance of the welfare of our common schools. Let me ask you to elect to that office, men who take an interest in education, and who care less for a dollar than they do for a few days school. What we need is not so much school, but a better quality of it. We need to retain teachers of known ability longer in the service, instead of changing teachers so often at the risk of having poor schools.

Six weeks of school under the care of a good teacher is of more benefit than twice that number under the care of some person who, having failed in some other business, has taken up teaching from necessity, or from a disinclination to manual labor.

#### SCHOOL BOOKS.

Hilliard's Readers having been in use in this town something like fifteen years, and having made satisfactory arrangements with the publishers of the Franklin Series of Readers, I decided to attempt a change. No compulsion was used in the introduction. The scholars were left free to choose for themselves, and



in every district on the main but one, they decided to take the new books, and even in that one a partial introduction was affected.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

The interior of the school-house in district No. 1, has been greatly improved by paint and paper; and the exterior, through the generosity of Mr. Geo. Burnham, has also been painted. It is hoped that a new school-house will be erected in district No. 8, during the coming summer. A new one is sadly needed at all events.

In conclusion, I would say that, such studies as algebra, philosophy, etc., are being crowded into our schools to the neglect of reading, writing and spelling. Let the parents see that this defect is remedied.

Respectfully submitted,

L. P. STURDIVANT, Supervisor.